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Flint-Related Lawsuits

[New lawsuit alleges racketeering created Flint's water crisis](#)

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 04/06/16 2:50 PM

Another day, another class-action lawsuit is filed seeking damages in the Flint water crisis. But this one is a little different from the rest. The lawsuit accuses state and local officials of racketeering. The class action lawsuit alleges Gov. Rick Snyder, three of Flint's former emergency managers, state officials, former Flint city leaders, and others decided to eliminate the city's budget deficit, and avoid bankruptcy, by charging high rates for Flint's drinking water.

[Gov. Rick Snyder target of RICO lawsuit over Flint water crisis](#)

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 04/06/16 2:00 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder, high ranking former members of his staff and others are the target of a new federal racketeering lawsuit over the city's water crisis. The lawsuit also targets the city of Flint. A group of 15 citizens filed the civil lawsuit seeking financial compensation for property damage, loss of business and financial losses attributed to the city's water crisis; as well as compensatory damages for future medical care and punitive damages.

[Governor Faces Racketeering Suit Over Flint Water Crisis](#)

By AP for ABC News 04/06/16 12:15 PM

Hundreds of residents of Flint, Michigan, filed a racketeering lawsuit Wednesday targeting Gov. Rick Snyder and other state and local officials over lead contamination of the city's drinking water. Filed in U.S. District Court in Flint, the suit is one of many arising from the decision to switch the Flint supply from the Detroit water system to the Flint River in April 2014 to cut costs. The move was supposed to be temporary, until Flint could join a new water authority that would pipe water from Lake Huron.

Flint residents gather to discuss legal options in water crisis

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 04/06/16 10:49 AM

Flint residents gathered Tuesday night at Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center to hear lawyers discuss class-action lawsuits amid the city's water crisis and have their questions answered. The event organized by the Flint Water Class Action Team included discussions by water expert Bob Bowcock, Scott Smith, chief scientist for the Water Defense, and legal representatives.

New lawsuit expected to be filed today against Snyder, state of Michigan over Flint water crisis

By Camille Amiri, WXYZ Detroit 04/06/16 8:33 AM

A "first of its kind" class action lawsuit is expected to be filed against Governor Snyder and the state of Michigan over the Flint water crisis this morning. About 400 plaintiffs have joined this class action lawsuit.

Racketeering lawsuit to be filed in connection to Flint water crisis

By Matthew Bleicher, FOX 66 News 04/06/16

A racketeering lawsuit is expected to be filed in federal court Wednesday morning against Gov. Rick Snyder, as well as several state agencies, over their involvement in the Flint water crisis. 1-800-LAW-FIRM, which is located in Southfield, and Bern Ripka LLP, which is located in New York are filing the lawsuit. In a press release the law firms say that this is the first time that a racketeering case has been filed in relation to the Flint water crisis.

EPA needs to step up watchdog role

USA Today for News-press.com 04/06/16 12:28 PM

When local and state governments fail their residents on a serious health issue, a tough federal watchdog can sure come in handy. Too bad the Environmental Protection Agency was so mired in legal protocol last year that it failed to come to the rescue of residents in Flint, Mich., where staggering levels of lead in drinking water became a national scandal.

Flint, energy bill talks stall in Senate

By Devin Henry The Hill 04/06/16 4:28 PM

Lawmakers are expressing frustration as talks over an aid package for Flint, Mich., and a broad energy reform bill stall in the Senate. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), who is helping to lead the charge on the aid package, said this week that Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) has so far refused to lift his hold on the measure despite a budget office report showing it would not add to the federal deficit.

Grants up to \$100,000 offered to communities affected by Flint water crisis

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 04/06/16 2:33 PM

The state of Michigan is offering up to \$100,000 in grant money to local governments affected by the water crisis in Flint. Gov. Rick Snyder announced the opening of the state Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund to offer assistance to the city of Flint, Genesee County, and other communities impacted by the water situation.

State offers disaster grants to Flint, Genesee County

By Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News 04/06/16 2:19 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder opened the state Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund on Wednesday to offer assistance grants for Flint, Genesee County and other local municipalities affected by the city's ongoing water crisis. Michigan's emergency response law allows the governor to use the fund for local assistance grants of up to \$100,000 under "extraordinary circumstances" and when federal reimbursement is not available.

Government aid slow to reach Flint residents

By Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News 04/06/16 11:01 AM

Tens of millions of dollars in state and federal aid approved for Flint have been slow to reach residents still suffering through the city's water contamination crisis. Michigan legislators and Gov. Rick Snyder have approved \$67 million for Flint since October, but state departments had spent \$14.1 million or 21 percent of the funding through March 12, according to recent expenditure reports.

Flint water crisis: Here's how to help

By Hometown Life 04/06/15 9:29 AM

The Flint Child Health & Development Fund was set up in January by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to provide long-term assistance to children affected by lead-tainted water in Flint. The fund will be used to interventions and support programs to help children who were poisoned by lead to have the best possible outcomes. Efforts will include early childhood education, better access to pediatric health care, behavioral health services, nutrition education and access to healthy food and more.

Group hopes to expand, mentor more Flint teens, thanks to \$125K grant

By Molly Young, MLIVE 04/06/16 9:04 AM

A new, \$125,000 grant will help one group continue and expand its teen outreach on Flint's north side. Over the course of two years, the Hagerman Foundation will give the money to Young Life of Genesee County, a Christian group that mentors teens who often come from broken homes, or no home at all.

Flint mayor makes case for water crisis funding

By Matthew Dolan, Detroit Free Press 04/05/16 10:23 PM

Flint's mayor expressed frustration Tuesday at the pace of the effort to replace water service lines blamed for leaching lead into the city's water supply. "No, I'm not satisfied with what's being done. We need some money," Flint Mayor Karen Weaver told journalists Monday at city hall. "We should have more than the crews out there right now....we could do blocks at a time."

Other News

Flint water crisis will be subject of another D.C. hearing

By FOX 17 News 04/06/16 5:22 PM

Another Congressional committee is scheduled to take up the Flint lead water crisis next week in Washington D.C. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce is planning a joint hearing entitled "Flint Water Crisis: Impacts and Lessons Learned," with the subcommittee on environment and the economy, and subcommittee on health.

Flint hiring staff for the city's water plant

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 04/06/16 1:45 PM

The city of Flint is taking steps to deal with a key staffing issue in its drinking water crisis. Federal regulators have criticized Flint officials for not hiring more people to operate the city's water plant. The EPA says the city needs more professionals to ensure it stays in compliance with federal regulations.

Students use Flint, MI water crisis as science experiment

By Rebekka Schramm, WTVM ABC 9 04/06/16 11:51 AM

Some high school students in Gwinnett County are learning first-hand that solving one of the nation's biggest environmental issues is no easy task. The pre-AP chemistry class at Suwanee's Peachtree Ridge High School recently took on the challenge of removing lead from Flint's water supply. "It was all over the news," said teacher Sarah Eales. "Our students were talking about it on our student news station."

Getting lead out of drinking water: Our view

By USA Today 04/06/16 3:26 PM

When local and state governments fail their residents on a serious health issue, a tough federal watchdog can sure come in handy. Too bad the Environmental Protection Agency was so mired

in legal protocol last year that it failed to come to the rescue of residents in Flint, Mich., where staggering levels of lead in drinking water became a national scandal. Now, while Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy continue to play a high-level game of pass the blame, it's clear that every level of government failed Flint. The state's failures — bungling water treatment, then ignoring mounting evidence of tainted water — must be dealt with in Michigan. But the EPA's failures — to ensure compliance with federal law and warn residents of tainted water when the state did not — are a problem for the nation, considering that Flint is just the tip of a lead-contaminated iceberg.

Report: There Are 65 Flint, Michigan-Type Water Systems in Texas

By Steve Jansen, Houston Press 04/06/16 7:00 AM

A new report by the Environmental Integrity Project says that an alarming number of Texans are drinking poison and that state officials are underestimating or flat-out ignoring the problem. For the past two years, arsenic concentrations in 65 Texas community water systems (which serve more than 82,000 people) have exceeded the federal limit, according to Don't Drink the Water, a March 14 report published by the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit.

Opinions

The United States of Flint

By Olivia Alperstein, Common Dreams 04/06/16

The horrible, preventable crisis in Flint, Michigan shows that when the government shortchanges our infrastructure, people pay the price. Flint has become a living hell for its residents. The water is brown, poisoned with lead, and too corrosive to use on skin or clothes. Scientists have predicted that all the children poisoned by lead will suffer physical and developmental problems as they grow up. Houses have damaged pipes, and the city claims it doesn't have enough resources to replace them.

Lessenberry: Flint water crisis deepens

By Jack Lessenberry, Windsor Star 04/05/16 5:00 PM

What's perhaps most stunning about the Flint Water Advisory Task Force's final report is how brutally tough it is. It forcefully indicates where the blame for poisoning an entire city lies: With the state, and Gov. Rick Snyder's appointees. The report, which makes riveting reading, makes it clear no one should try to pass the buck to Washington, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration, the EPA.

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